

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

A communication network includes ~~comprising at least one first and second terminals,~~
~~nodes terminal, at least one second terminal, and a plurality of links.~~ links, and at least first and
~~second nodes.~~ The first node is bidirectionally coupled to the first terminal through at least a the
first link ~~one of the links,~~ and also is bidirectionally coupled to the second terminal through at
least a the second link and the second node. Preferably, ~~the~~ The first node preferably includes
comprises a plurality of communication paths, each of which is coupled at a first end thereof to at
least one corresponding first link and ~~Second ends of the communication paths are all coupled~~
to the second link, through a multiplexing device, and route routing signals between the ~~first and~~
~~second~~ links. The first node also preferably includes ~~comprises at least one~~ an alternate
communication path ~~having a first end~~ coupled through the multiplexing device to the second
link, ~~at least one~~ a switch ~~that is~~ coupled to the alternate ~~communication~~ path, and a detector ~~for~~
detecting a failure in at least of a ~~one of the~~ communication path ~~paths~~. A controller is ~~coupled~~
~~to the detector and the switch.~~ ~~The controller~~ is responsive to the detector detecting a failure in at
least one of the a communication path ~~communication paths~~ and controls ~~for controlling~~ the
switch to couple the alternate ~~communication~~ path to a corresponding first link, thereby enabling
a signal to be routed between that first and second links ~~link and the second link~~ through the
alternate ~~communication~~ path.